BATTLEWORLD
Red Skull™ #1
WILLIAMSON
PIZZARI
BEREDO
SECRET WARS
MARVEL

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SECRET WARS

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

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THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

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NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD:**

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

Red Skull

• PART ONE: HUNTERS •

WRITER: JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

ARTIST: LUCA PIZZARI

COLOR ARTIST: RAINIER BEREDO

LETTERER & PRODUCTION: VC's CLAYTON COWLES

COVER ARTIST: RILEY ROSSMO

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS: NICK PITARRA & MEGAN WILSON

EDITOR: JON MOISAN

EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA

PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY

EXEC. PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

RED SKULL CREATED BY JOE SIMON & JACK KIRBY

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BATTLEWORLD,
KILLVILLE,
SO A COUPLE OF LOUSY THORS WERE HASSLIN' ME AT THE BORDER BETWEEN THE WARZONE AND DOOMSTADT.
T-ROY'S
FOOD
GETTIN' ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY. TELLING ME I DON'T HAVE PERMISSION TO CROSS. THAT THEY'RE GONNA SEND ME TO THE HIGH COURT AND ALL THAT MUMBO JUMBO.
AS IF THEY COULD LAY A HAND ON ELECTRO!
WILL TO MANGLE
I MIGHT HAVE MENTIONED THAT THE ONLY LAW I FOLLOW IS THE RED SKULL'S AND I CAN TELL THEY'RE PISSED AND IT'S ABOUT TO GET HAIRY.
BUT Y'KNOW I JUST CAN'T HELP MYSELF, AND I LOOKED THAT STUPID THOR RIGHT IN THE EYES AND I SAID...
HAIL RED SKULL.
DIRTY
HAHAHAHA

BANG BANG BANG

BANG

BANG

☠☠☠☠!

BEEP

AH! WHAT...DID... YOU...

WAS GOING TO WAIT UNTIL YOU STROLLED OUTSIDE, ELECTRO...

...BUT YOU WOULDN'T *SHUT UP* AND WE'VE GOT *PLACES* TO BE.

RESERVED for CUSTOMERS

MY NECK... IS KILLING ME...

WHY AREN'T...MY POWERS...?

ALL IN DUE TIME.

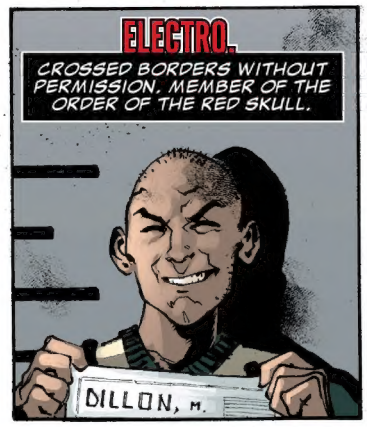
NOW SIT YOUR ASS DOWN...

THUK

...AND SAY HELLO TO YOUR NEW *FRIENDS*.

DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE. IT'S GOING TO BE A QUICK TRIP.
AND IF YOU LOT GET INTO ANY FUNNY BUSINESS BACK THERE, I'LL TURN THIS CAR RIGHT AROUND!
HA!
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
VVOOSHH

WHY'RE YOU LUMPING ME IN WITH THESE LOSERS?!
I DON'T RUN WITH THEM. WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, BOY?
WE'VE ALL COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST DOOM.


ELECTRO.
CROSSED BORDERS WITHOUT PERMISSION. MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE RED SKULL.
DILLON, M.

MAGNETO.
TORE DOWN A METAL STATUE OF DOOM IN MUTOPIA.
EISENHARDT, M.

MOONSTONE.
HELD SECRET MEETINGS TO PROPAGATE A LACK OF FAITH IN DOOM.

JACK O'LANTERN.
BLEW UP ONE OF DOOM'S BUILDINGS IN DOOMSTADT.

LADY DEATHSTRIKE.
GUTTED THREE THORS WITH HER CLAWS. TOOK A WEEK TO CLEAN UP THE BLOOD.

THE WINTER SOLDIER
A.K.A. JAMES "BUCKY" BARNES.

WHY NOT JUST SEND US TO HIGH COURT LIKE NORMAL?
BECAUSE YOU ALL PISSED OFF DOOM REAL GOOD.
BUT OUR GOD DOOM IS NOTHING IF NOT A GENEROUS LORD, AND HE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO REDEEM YOURSELVES IN HIS EYES.
A REAL CHOICE MISSION FOR YOU BOYS... AND GIRLS.
YA'LL ARE FAMILIAR WITH...

"THE RED SKULL?
"YOU MIGHT'VE HEARD THE LEGENDS...RED SKULL DIDN'T CARE FOR DOOM'S RULE OVER BATTLEWORLD AND TRIED TO...UNSUCCESSFULLY LEAD AN UPRISING AGAINST HIM.
"AS PUNISHMENT FOR HIS SINS, RED SKULL WAS SENT OVER THE SHIELD WHERE HE DIED AN UGLY DEATH.
"BUT THERE HAVE BEEN WHISPERS AMONG THE WATCHERS ON THE SHIELD RECENTLY...
"WHISPERS THAT RED SKULL SURVIVED. ESCAPED. AND IS AT THIS VERY MOMENT PLANNING AN ATTACK ON DOOM'S KINGDOM.
"RED SKULL WAS ALREADY A SYMBOL OF DISSENT AGAINST DOOM, BUT RECENTLY IT'S GOTTEN--"

OH, PLEASE.
FILTHY LIES, ALL OF IT.
RED SKULL IS JUST SOME KIND OF BOOGEYMAN MADE UP BY PUNK KIDS WHO WANT SOMETHING TO THROW AT DOOM.
DEATHSTRIKE IS RIGHT.
HE'S A MYTH CREATED TO ANGER DOOM. NOTHING MORE.
HE'S REAL!
RED SKULL IS AN AGENT OF CHAOS WHO WILL RISE LIKE THE PHOENIX...
...AND DESTROY DOOM'S ORDER! JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE!
IMPOSSIBLE. THE DEADLANDS OBLITERATE ANY WHO ENTER ITS BORDERS. MIND, BODY AND SOUL.
NO ONE HAS EVER COME BACK FROM THE SHIELD ALIVE.
NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE, MAGNETO, MY FRIEND.
I WOULD KNOW... I ESCAPED THE DEADLANDS.
NO WAY!
NOT LIKELY.
AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE, ANYWAY?
YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT US, AND YET YOU HAVEN'T SHOWN US THE COURTESY OF EVEN GIVING US YOUR NAME, MISTER RED SKULL EXPERT.
I KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE RED SKULL BECAUSE...

...HE WAS THE BEST BOSS A GUY LIKE ME COULD ASK FOR.

CROSSBONES?!
WE ARE [redacted], MAN!
AND [redacted]!

WERE YOU NOT ONCE LOYAL TO THE RED SKULL?
IS THAT YOUR GOAL? TO SAVE YOUR FORMER MASTER?
NAH, I'VE BEEN DRINKING THE DOOM KOOL-AID. GOTTA GO WHERE THE POWER IS, YA READ ME?
BUT THIS ISN'T MY IDEA.
ACCORDING TO SHERIFF STRANGE...

THE VERY IDEA OF THE RED SKULL IS BECOMING A BIGGER HEADACHE THAN THE MAN HIMSELF EVER WAS IN LIFE. HIS SYMBOL HAS SPREAD ACROSS DOOM'S BATTLEWORLD LIKE AN IMMACULATE INFECTION.
IT IS DOOM'S ORDER THAT YOU DISCREETLY FIND PROOF OF THE RED SKULL'S DEATH.

BUT YOU SEE, SHERIFF STRANGE...HE'S A BIT OF A POLITICAL MONSTER.
MY GUESS IS DOOM REALLY SAID...

...BRING ME THE RED SKULL'S HEAD IN A BOX.

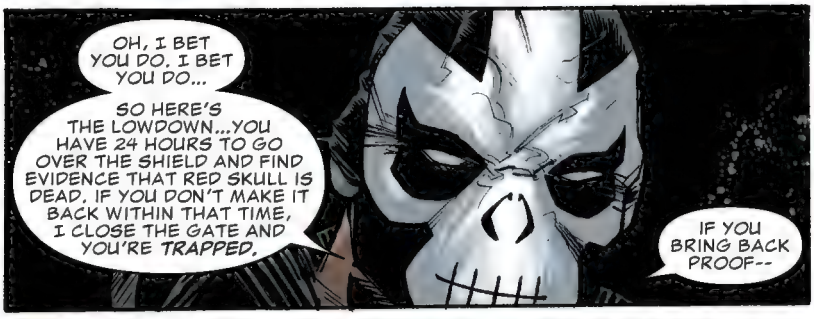
AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO...WITH A BOW ON IT.
STRANGE ASKED ME TO ROUND UP THE BEST GROUP OF GOOD-FOR-NOTHINGS I COULD FIND TO DIG UP RED SKULL'S BODY...THAT'D BE YOU LOT.
WHAT IF WE DON'T WANT TO HELP YOU...WHAT IF ONE OF US WANTS TO...
ESCAPE?!

AHH!
KRRRZZZTTTHHH
YOU GET A SPANKING, BOY!
KRAK
DO I LOOK LIKE I WAS BORN YESTERDAY?!
I'D NEVER LEAVE MYSELF OPEN LIKE THAT!
THUMP

THE COLLARS AREN'T JUST FOR SHOW. THEY *LIMIT* YOUR POWERS. TURN THEM AGAINST YOU IF YOU ACT OUT.
KEEPS YOU FLIERS *GROUNDED*. DON'T NEED ANY OF YOU TRYING TO FLY BACK OVER THE SHIELD NOW, DO WE? AND IF YOU GET THE BRIGHT IDEA OF TAKING THEM OFF...
...*BOOM*.
YEAH, WELL, WHY ISN'T BUCKY WEARING ONE?

OL' STARS AND STRIPES HERE *VOLUNTEERED*.
STUPID, RIGHT?!

THE RED SKULL AND I HAVE...*UNFINISHED BUSINESS*.


OH, I BET YOU DO. I BET YOU DO...
SO HERE'S THE LOWDOWN...YOU HAVE 24 HOURS TO GO OVER THE SHIELD AND FIND EVIDENCE THAT RED SKULL IS DEAD. IF YOU DON'T MAKE IT BACK WITHIN THAT TIME, I CLOSE THE GATE AND YOU'RE *TRAPPED*.
IF YOU BRING BACK PROOF--

WE GET OUR FREEDOM.

GOLD STAR TO THE MAN IN WHITE.
UM... COULD YOU REPEAT ALL THAT?

-SIGH-
DOESN'T MATTER. YOU'LL PROBABLY BE THE *FIRST* TO DIE ANYWAY.
WE'RE HERE.

"THE SHIELD."
VRROOSSH
KEEP IT MOVING, FOLKS.
STRANGE GAVE US A SHORT WINDOW WHEN THE WATCHERS WOULDN'T HAVE AN EYE ON THE GATE THAT I--
HOLY [illegible]! IS THAT A DINOSAUR?!

SURE IS.
BANG
SPT
DAMN...NEVER SEEN A DINOSAUR BEFORE...
DON'T INTERRUPT ME WHILE I'M TALKING OR YOU'LL BE NEXT.
AS I WAS SAYING...BUILT THIS TUNNEL MYSELF AFTER I MADE IT BACK. YOU BUNCH WILL HAVE AN EASY WAY IN, BUT IT'LL ONLY OPEN IF YOU BRING BACK CONFIRMATION OF RED SKULL'S DEMISE.
YOU'RE NOT JOINING US FOR THIS LOVELY WALK IN THE PARK?
HELL, NO! BEEN THERE, DONE THAT. AND I'M THE ONLY ONE I TRUST TO WATCH THE DOOR.
DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR FLAMING HEAD NOW...
I'LL BE RIGHT HERE WAITING FOR YOU WHEN YOU GET BACK.
TSSSHTD
I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE DOOM WOULD LEAVE AN ENTRANCE THIS IMPORTANT WITHOUT A GUARD.
WHOSE BRAINS DO YOU THINK I JUST BLEW OUT?
QUIT YOUR YAPPING AND HUSTLE THEM FINGERNAILS, LADY.
HAVE A BLAST, KIDDIES!
IF YOU DON'T GET KILLED...
...BRING ME BACK A SOUVENIR!
WE'RE GOING TO JUST ABANDON THIS LUNACY AND FIND OUR OWN WAY BACK TO BATTLEWORLD, YES?
NOT REALLY AN OPTION HERE. OUR FIRST PRIORITY IN THE DEADLANDS...

...IS TO SURVIVE.
THAT'LL BE A CINCH!
EVEN WITH OUR SKILLS ON THE FRITZ, NO ONE IS GOING TO MESS WITH A GROUP LIKE US!
TTSSH-SLAM
TRAPPED.
IF MY POWERS WERE AT FULL STRENGTH, I'D TEAR DOWN THIS WHOLE DAMN WALL.

YOU'D SENTENCE ALL OF BATTLEWORLD TO BE *TERRORIZED* BY THE ARMIES OF THE DEADLANDS.
AS MUCH AS I WANT DOOM TO FALL...WE'RE NOT TAKING INNOCENT LIVES IN THE PROCESS.
BUT AT LEAST WE'D BE *FREE*. NOT ALL OF US CHOSE TO BE HERE, BUCK O'BOY.
THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE...
BUT I SWEAR TO YOU, WE'LL FIND THE RED SKULL'S BODY AND WALK OUT OF THIS TOGETHER. *ALL OF US.*
I'VE SEEN MY FAIR SHARE OF BATTLEFIELDS... AND I KNOW WE CAN BEAT THIS ONE.
I'D LIKE TO NEVER SEE THE INSIDE OF A *CAGE* AGAIN...
YOU'RE ASSUMING THAT CROSSBONES' *WORD* CAN BE TRUSTED?
IT'S WORTH THE RISK, IF IT MEANS I RETURN TO MY PEOPLE.
I'LL BE DAMNED!
IT'S TRUE...*I KNEW IT!*
WE'RE NOT GOING TO JUST FIND RED SKULL...
...HE'S GONNA LEAD US OUT OF THIS PLACE *ALIVE!*

CHOMP
FEEDING TIME!
KEEP CLOSE TOGETHER!
DON'T LET THEM OVERWHELM YOU...

...AND GO FOR THE HEADS!
AAAHHHHH!
MUNCH MUNCH
CHOMP CHOMP
IT'S LIKE LICKING A BATTERY!
DAMN INHIBITOR COLLARS!
OUR POWERS ARE USELESS!
EEEIII!

THAT SON OF A BITCH CROSSBONES SET US UP--
THIS ONE COMES WITH ITS OWN KNIVES! FANCY!
CHOMP
IF WE STAY TOGETHER, WE CAN PUSH PAST THEM!
DON'T GIVE UP!

REMINDS ME OF A FOURTH OF JULY BBQ!

ARGH!

TASTY!

HMM. JUST LIKE THE PUMPKIN PIE MY GRANNY USED TO MAKE!

THIS WAS POINTLESS!

NO ONE COULD SURVIVE THIS HELL!

SLLLSSSH

SLSSH

THUK

GET UP...

THERE IS POWER IN THE WORLD BELIEVING YOU HAVE DIED. IN OTHER WORDS...
...COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT TO DIE.
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT: NO SECRET'S SAFE.